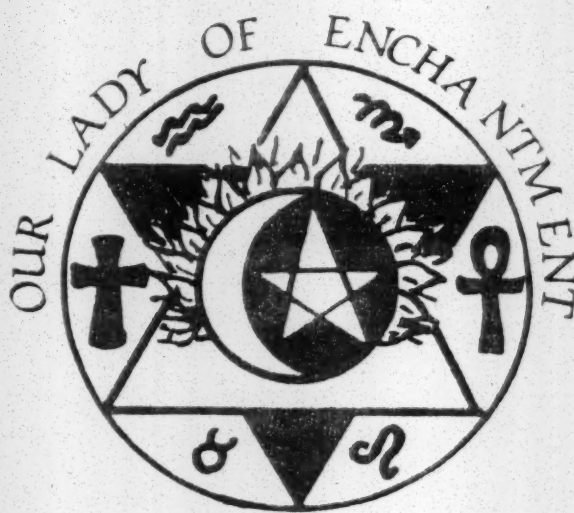


OUTER COURT

COMMUNICATIONS



ISSUE 86-3

OUR LADY OF ENCHANTMENT, BOX 1366, NASHUA, NH 03061

WHOLE NO.40

THE SUMMER SOLSTICE!

The Summer Solstice! It is the longest day of the year, with the Sun and the Sun-God at His highest and brightest. From earliest times, this has been the most celebratory of the festival days - a Great Day of contests, and bonfires, and everyone decked out with flowers. The Sun is in His abundance, and his avatars - Michael, Balin, Arthur, Lugh, and Herne - are putting to flight the minions of the dark.

This is a very important Summer Solstice! Not only is the sun at its apogee in Cancer, but there is a Full Moon in the sign of Capricorn that day, AND it marks the Perigean Spring Tides. This is when the tides are at their highest, and it happens at those rare times when there is a New or Full Moon within 24 hours of when the moon is at its nearest point to the Earth. So, the Moon, Tides, and Sun will all be at their fullest at Mid-Summer. Quite an event! - Firebear

The Oldest Science - Astrology

He had been watching the bright star for several nights now and he knew that it was moving. Only living things moved in his world, so he knew that the light was not simply a star, but a living force like the sun or the moon. And in this way, primitive man began to discover the wandering stars which the Greeks later called planetai, (including the sun and the moon) and which, today, we call planets.

As the centuries passed, the early man learned something of the will of the sky forces. He learned that the earth grew cool and dark without light from the sun. He learned to predict eclipses to determine the times of high tides and severe storms. He learned that bright Venus had qualities that differed from red Mars and impulsive Mercury. He learned that the slower Jupiter and Saturn were more powerful in the long run. And he built tools to help him discover the systematic motions of the lights in the heavens.

Because the new moon occurs twelve times each year, he divided the year into twelve months and designated each with a sign of the zodiac. And he divided the day and the night into hours - twelve for each. Because he discovered the magic of the triangle with sides of three, four, and five units, he made the product of three, four, and five his sacred number - and thus was born the ancient mathematical system based upon sixty, which is why we have sixty minutes in an hour and sixty seconds in a minute.

And he chose 360 for the divisions of a circle because it was the product of three, four, five, and six; it was equal in length to twelve moons (months); it was equal to thirteen passages of the moon through the zodiac (called the sidereal period of the moon); it was very close to the year of 365 days; and it was an easy number to divide. Today we still use this time-tried system.

It was in this fashion that the study of astrology gave us many of our traditional measuring systems. And, as men grew to know more about the lights in the sky, he created greater tools and developed a more complex understanding of the forces which affected himself and his fellows. Those who understood how to use this new knowledge found that it was a source of personal power which could be used to elevate them to positions of honor and royalty.

The lesser classes who were not capable of understanding this science were good subjects who could serve the kings and priests. So, the less intellectually inclined were given myths to help them understand and yet prevent them from fully understanding. The majority of mankind accepted the forces of the universe as gods, while the learned began to use the forces to promote their own interests.

But apart from the politicians, there were idealists who were dedicated to the greater philosophical secrets. They formed a worldwide fraternity which is still alive today. At first they passed the secrets from one generation to the next by word of mouth and later in coded writing as well. Most of the holy writings of the world's religions are laced with encoded secrets to be found by those who are willing to make the effort. Based upon a collection of stories told in Hebrew, Aramaic, and ancient Greek, Christianity is no exception. It has changed considerably since the time of the Christ, but there are still many hints left as to its original character - some of which will be explored in future articles, under the heading, "The Oldest Science."

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RUSH LIGHTS !

At Midsummer, during the time of the Sun when the Solstice flames burn bright, it is a good time to make rush light torches. Rush lights can be made from any rush with a soft, white, sponge-like center. These grow in or near almost any marsh, pond, or stream.

Gather rushes by cutting them with a sharp knife below the water line. Cut the rushes into lengths that can be easily worked with. Soak in water for three to four hours, and then spread them in the sun or in a very low-temperature set oven, in order to dry completely.

The trick to making a good rush light is to peel away a small strip of green outer skin down one side of the rush, leaving just enough skin still in place to support the soft inner material. When you have the rushes ready, heat some wax in a long container until just melted (be careful not to overheat!). Dip the rushes, one at a time, into the wax, making certain each is completely coated. Allow the wax to set. Repeat the dipping three or four more times, allowing the rush to dry between each dipping.

You can use perfumed or colored oil for variety.

Two, twelve-inch rush lights last approximately as long as one ten-inch taper candle, and they can be used indoors or out.

**Tarot cards,
Numerology,
I Ching,
Palmistry,
Dreams.**

Most of us see these as windows into the future, a trick to see what could happen to us in some situation, or a way to address our fears about an upcoming event. But have you ever considered using divination to see the truth of where you are now? Here and Now is where we really live, and we can always use the best and most accurate information to help us in the present. The reason we should use not only the rational side of our brains but also our right-brained, intuitive side, is to have a much larger, wholistic perspective.

When you learn to become adept at the time-tested techniques of prediction, you will exercise your inner faculties for effectively living your here and now. And isn't that the only goal worth having?

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OUR LADY OF ENCHANTMENT

Our Lady of Enchantment is a church of the Old Religion and a school of Wicca. It is the only Wiccan metaphysical center of its kind in the United States. For nearly half a decade, our organization has continuously grown to meet the renaissance of interest in Magick, Goddess worship, and the Wiccan ways. Sabbats, Full Moons, and Friday Night Church services and rituals are held in our beautiful, new chapel.



Our Lady of Enchantment is also a seminary of Celtic Wicca. It is a place to learn, to share, to grow. Lady Sabrina, Lord Phoenix, and the staff and members are dedicated to preserving the traditions of Western Magick and Witchcraft. They provide lectures and classes in Wicca and Metaphysics. There is also the opportunity for sincere seekers to take intensive training, leading to first degree initiation. We have temporary living quarters for members, live-in students, and out-of-town visitors.

For those unable to train with us personally, we have available a complete set of courses that a student can take through the mail. There are currently several thousand students in 25 countries and republics throughout the world who are participating in the home study programs.

Our Lady of Enchantment also contains a library of over 6,000 books and publications related to Wicca and Magick. The publications have been card catalogued and are updated monthly, providing valuable information and access to many books that are now unavailable or out-of-print.

ACTIVITIES

Our Lady of Enchantment is an active organization, and every season marks the passing of a major event.

Last Autumn marked the Grand Opening of our new facility, and it brought Wiccans from across the United States to our doors. There were tours and a great ritual and a feast for all.

Every Great Day is marked by a special ritual and feasting, and last Yule and Imbolg were no exceptions. Old members and new gathered in fellowship and celebration.



Speaking of fellowship, the Outer Court Fellowship, made up of members who plan and decide which service and fun activities we do, kept us busy between the Spring Equinox and Beltane this year! We started with a field trip day to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, where there was plenty of statuary and art from many times and cultures to keep us entertained and informed. Before Beltane, members visited Hammond Castle, a modern castle on the New England seacoast that is furnished primarily with authentic medieval and renaissance pieces. At Beltane there was another Great Day ritual and feast!

The plans for this Summer Solstice are for members to meet at dawn at a nearby archeological site known as America's Stonehenge. It is believed to have been built by Irish Culdee monks around 1000 AD, and the site has many monoliths that are aligned for observances of the equinoxes and solstices.

Toward the end of the summer season, there will a Board of Director's meeting and dinner! (See the Summer Calendar of Events.)

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PROJECTS AND PLANS

There are many plans for expansions and improvements to the services and facilities here at Our Lady of Enchantment.

- **At our recent work day, we began the process of expanding the parking area.**
- **The ground has been prepared, ready to be converted into an outdoor ritual circle!**
- **We will be the landscaping and planting a herb garden.**
- **The metaphysical center is having its electrical system refitted, and plans are coming up for a new coat of paint!**
- **The future also holds a metaphysical book-and-supply store, complete with oils, incense, books, tapes, tarot cards, tools, and other general wiccan items.**

SUMMER 1986 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 6: Friday Night Church, 7:30 PM**
Open to all seekers and members.
Outer Court Fellowship meeeting.
Open to all members.
- June 20: Full Moon meeting.**
Invited guests only.
- June 21: Summer Solstice Sabbat, Saturday, 7:30 PM**
Members and invited guests.
- June 27: Friday Night Church, 7:30 PM**
Open to all seekers and members.

- July 11:** Friday Night Church, 7:30 PM
Open to all seekers and members.
Outer Court Fellowship meeeting.
Open to all members.
- July 21:** Full Moon meeting.
Invited guests only.
- July 27:** Friday Night Church, 7:30 PM
Open to all seekers and members.
- August 1:** Lughnasadh/Lammas Night Sabbat, Friday, 7:00 PM
Members and invited guests.
- August 8:** Friday Night Church, 7:30 PM
Open to all seekers and members.
Outer Court Fellowship meeeting.
Open to all members.
- August 16:** ANNUAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AND DINNER!
On Saturday, August 16th at 7:00 PM, there will be elections, a policy meeting, and the presentation of the financial report. All members are welcome. Cocktails, meeting, and dinner will be held at the River Club in Nashua, NH.

I would like to make a donation to OUR LADY OF ENCHANTMENT *
\$10__ \$15__ \$25__ \$50__ \$100__ \$250__ \$500__ \$1000__

* Our Lady of Enchantment is a legally recognized church and non-profit organization - all donations are tax deductible.

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____ Yes, I would like to receive further information about your services and programs.

OUR LADY OF ENCHANTMENT, BOX 1366, NASHUA, NH 03061

I am the very model of a modern true Aquarius,
I have interests that are quite diversified and various,
I live a life that some might think is a little gregarious,
And I am not just boasting like some haughty Sagittarius.
I have friends who live out West, and below the Mason-Dixon line,
Whose temperments are either Mercurial or Saturnine,
To whom I write to on a basis that is most frequently,
But from whom I get no written reply, at least not recently.

I write my notes on ideas that are widely-held or spurious,
And try to get replies from them that are benign or furious,
In short, with interests that are diversified and various,
I am the very model of a modern true Aquarius.

I study all religions, from pre-Adamite to Post-Taoist,
I examine politics that are least kingly and most Maoist,
I practice sciences that are both worldly and esoteric,
And catalogue emotions that are phlegmatic or choleric,
I can speak of petty details or give a grand overview,
And in such clarity as to be understood in East Overshoe,
I can lecture on subjects with seriousness and levity,
And the one thing I lack, to speak well, is a sense of brevity.

When I speak I find there is much I need to communicate,
And I can prattle on for hours, from Noon until half-past eight,
In short, with interests that are diversified and various,
I am the very model of a modern true Aquarius.

When I am master of all sorts of unimportant trivia,
When I can comment on the life of Augustus' wife, Livia,
When I can make a long critique on Ronald Reagan's cinema
And devise some wry comments on Mahatma Gandhi's enema,
When I can fully reconcile nature's peculiarities,
And then contemplate all the scientific similarities,
When I have shown all emotions from joyous to taciturn,
You will say that a better Aquarius never tapped an urn.

For my growing store of knowledge I often shun the commonplace,
And seek out fresh new ideas from metaphysics to interface,
In short, with interests that are diversified and various,
I am the very model of a modern true Aquarius.

- by Mazzaroth
(with apologies to W.S. Gilbert)

CRAFT EVENTS

June 17-22

International Pagan Spirit Gathering. Includes Pagan Youth Experience.

Contact: Circle, Box 219, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

June 19-22

Festival of Women's Spirituality, near Salem, Oregon. Sponsored by Women in Constant Creative Action (W.I.C.C.A). Contact: Norma Joyce, P.O. Box 201, Monmouth, OR 97361

June 19-22

Goddess Gathering in Southern Ohio. Contact: Riversong, Box 1966, Youngstown, OH 44506

June 27-29

Heartland Pagan Festival. For info, send \$1.00 to:

Quest Productions, c/o Stormraven, P.O. Box 10082, Kansas City, MO 64111

July 1-7

1986 Rainbow Family World Peace Gathering, in the Allegheny Natl. Forest in Penn. Contact: Rainbow Family Tribal Council, PO Box 323, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

July 2-6

Gaia Festival. Send SASE to: Heartland, 2237 W. Morse Ave., Chicago, IL 60645

July 4-6

Sommersthing. Norse Teutonic Pagan focus. Contact: 537 Jones, San Francisco, CA 94102-2007

July 19-22

Gathering for Life on Earth. Contact: Pagans for Peace, c/o Sam Wagar, Dragonfly Farm, Lake St. Peter, Ontario, K01 2K0, Canada



Pagan Book Review: by Firebear

The Underworld Initiation by R.J. Stewart
(Aquarian Press - \$11.95 - 315 pages)

"I have descended into the bosom of the Mistress." In an echo of this ancient inscription of the Orphic mysteries, R.J. Stewart brings us a view of the stages and elements of the Underworld/Otherworld, Journey/Initiation Mystery Tradition. His premise is no less than the assertion that there exists a powerful esoteric tradition, native to the Western Hemisphere, whose task is the transformation (by initiation) of its practitioners. This tradition is distinguished from the Eastern religions and traditions in that the gurus and teachers in the Western tradition are metaphysical beings - symbolic and realistic, but metaphysical.

The author compares the traditions with those of "orthodox religion, occult literature from the Middle Ages to present day, and modern pseudo-paganism." He also makes comparisons against psychology, that "love-child of materialism and orthodox religion...In our present culture we have lost...shared and group learning in favor of mass-media entertainment - life is no longer lived by the individual, but lived for the individual through control of the social group."

Stewart shows that the foundation of the Otherworld Mystery Tradition lies in the basic viewpoint that there is more than one World, and its value lies "within its liberating qualities. A tradition, of any sort, has no other ultimate value."

For me, the chapter on the figure of the Guardian and the Guide was, by itself, worth the price of the book. But the author discusses many elements of our traditions: magical dreams, the Hermetic and Universal trees (not the Qabalah!), totem beasts, riddles, the Horned God, the Son of Light, ancestors, initiation, and the Underworld narrative. There are also analyses of the songs and ballads that are the core of these Mysteries: Young Tam Lin, Thomas the Rhymer, The False Knight on the Road, and many others. Stewart even provides a discography of modern folk balladeers who have rendered some of these!

"I have descended into the bosom of the Mistress." Like the Mysteries, I trust this book will excite you, challenge you, and deepen your conviction in the Great Work of which we all have our Part.

CRAFT PUBLICATIONS

CIRCLE NETWORK NEWS: Quarterly newspaper, Wiccan/Pagan articles and news. \$3/sample, \$9/year. Circle, PO Box 219, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

COUNCIL OF THE MAGICKAL ARTS: Quarterly journal, Wiccan/Pagan related. \$7/year. Council of the Magickal Arts, 5920 Bissonet 114, Houston, TX 77081

HARVEST: Published at Sabbats; Neo-Pagan journal, Wiccan/Pagan articles, news, and networking. \$2/sample, \$10/yearly. Harvest, PO Box 228, S. Framingham, MA 01701

MAGICKAL UNICORN MESSENGER: Quarterly publication of the Temple of Wicca. Articles, poems, festival news. \$7/yearly. Temple of Wicca, PO Box 1302, Findlay, OH 45839

OF A LIKE MIND: Quarterly newspaper, published by and for women; also networking membership. \$2.50/sample, \$10/yearly. Of A Like Mind, PO Box 6201, Madison, WI 53716

PAGANA: Sabbats, Pagan/Wiccan/Occult, a special interest group of Mensa. \$2/sample, \$12/year (6 issues). Zephyr Starwater, PO Box 9494, San Jose, CA 95157

PAGAN PARENTS LEAGUE NEWSLETTER: For Pagan parents. PO Box 423-P, Bay Shore, NY 11706

PAGAN UNITY NEWS: Quarterly networking publication for the Wiccan/Pagan community. \$2/sample, \$7/yearly. Northern Way, Inc., 6030 W. Roosevelt Rd., Oak Park, IL 60304

PANEGYRIA: The newsletter of the Aquarian Tabernacle Church, \$8/yearly. PO Box 85507, Seattle, WA 98145

SEASONAL SILVER: Nature/Humanitarian quarterly newsletter. \$2/sample, \$8/yearly. PO Box 189, Alpharetta, GA 30201

THUNDERBOW: Monthly newsletter with a good individual viewpoint. \$6/yearly. Church of the Seven Arrows, 4385 Hoyt St. - #201, Wheatridge, CO 80033

THE UNICORN: Published at Sabbats, newsletter format. \$10/yearly. The Rowan Tree, Box 8814, Minneapolis, MN 55408 (Also the location of The Rowan Tree Herb Shop)

THE UPPER TRIAD: A journal of metaphysical, theosophical, and esoteric philosophy. Free/monthly. The Upper Triad, PO Box 1370, Manassas, VA 22110-1370

The Man in the Forest

Strolling 'cross a meadow green,
A distant figure I did see.
Proud and strong,
Half goat, half man,
A shadow in the distant treeline.
Beckoning, calling me along.


A subtle stirring in my heart,
Pulling this mortal shell apart.

Distant pipes I now did hear,
Sounds of laughing and good cheer.
Proud and strong,
I'm running now,
Crashing through the forest green,
Toward that goatman now unseen.

They said Pan's dead,
To run no more,
Through wooded green and foreststead,
A shadow in the distant treeline.

I hear those distant pipes.
Rushing headlong through the trees,
Thrashing, tearing, biting, willing;
Exhaustion brings me to my knees,
Within the circle, wildly spinning.
As the pagan Goddess welcomes me.

- Wesley Nibarger (#1090)

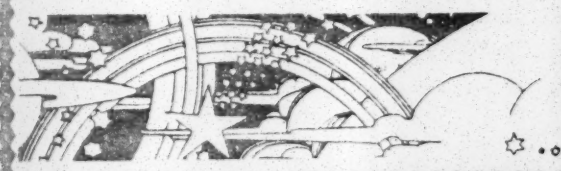


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HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Dik Browne





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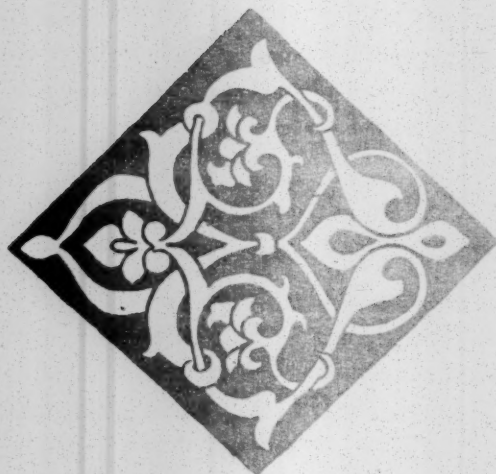
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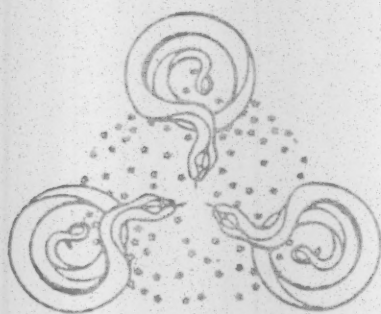
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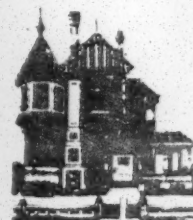
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